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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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December 25th, 1975, Issue No. 50

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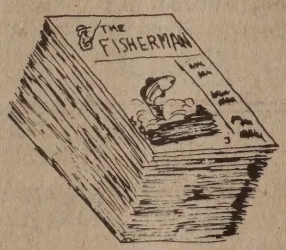

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THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, No. 50 December 25th, 1975

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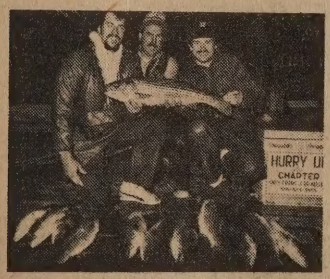

ABOUT THE COVER: Mark Lomas (left) and John Riggins (right) of the NY Jets with Captain Frank Braddick. Fish look small due to the size of the Jets. The bass ranged from ten to twenty two pounds. Photo by Dick Mermon.

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CLUB NEWS

Attention Fishing Clubs

Mr. Bernie Stisak has called upon L.I.F. for help in locating Fishing Clubs in or near the Rockland County area who are seeking an enthusiastic new member. Come on clubs...give Bernie a call! (914) 634-9561.

FISHERMEN'S CLUB

At the December 8th meeting of the North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club, elections were held, and Stu Goodman of Rocky Point was re-elected President for a second term. Re-elected to the office of Vice President was Tom Mortati of Rocky Point. Elected to the office of treasurer was Dan Marchand of Rocky Point and elected to the office of financial secretary was Tom Rinaldi of Port Jefferson Station.

Others elected to office included: John Moore from Selden as corresponding secretary, Glen Just from Yaphank as recording secretary, Bill Stolz, from Rocky Point as sergeant of arms, and three trustee officers: Neil Buchler of Lake Ronkonkoma and Joe Streng and Ed Sullivan both of Rocky Point. The new officers will be sworn into office at the annual dinner and awards night, which will be held this year on February 13, 1976 in the Elk Hotel, Port Jefferson.

The North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen'sClub, Inc., was founded in 1969, and was chartered by the State of New York in 1970 as a non profit club association. For more info on the NBSFC Lake Ronkonkoma residents may call 588-6080, while Rocky Point area fishermen may call 744-6260. All Island fishermen are welcome at meetings.

BAY SHORE MAKE TOURNAMENT DATES

The Bay Shore Tuna Club wishes to announce the dates of their 1976 Bay Shore Mako Tournament. It will be the weekend of June 26th and 27th. Tournament again will be limited to 150 boats.

MECLI NEWS

A meeting of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island will be held Tuesday, Dec. 30th (8 P.M.) at the Bowery Savings Bank, Sunrise Hwy, Massapequa Park. Use rear entrance elevator to 2nd floor.

The meeting is open to those seeking to help protect the marine waters.

News Releases

LIBBA "OPERATION CHRISTMAS TREE"

As head of Public Relations, I would like to inform your readers of the coming event of "Operation Christmas Tree". Our organization, Long Island Beach Buggy Association, Great South Bay Mobile Sportsfishermen, and many individuals not related to any organization, will be placing unsold Christmas trees in the sand dunes at Smith's Point Beach, NY. These Christmas trees are being planted to prevent the erosion caused by wind, rain, etc...Both LIBBA and GSBMS are interested in preserving the natural beach resources of Long Island.

"Operation Christmas Tree" will be held January 10th, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 25. For further information please call Joyce Thayer at (516) 751-2433 or Dave Gordon at (516) 472-3930 after 5 P.M. Refreshments and lunch will be supplied for our guests at the beach.

MARINE BUYERS BUIDE

Underwater epoxy, hard-to-find protective masks, hoods and respirators, and Kevlar 49—the new lightweight hull fabric for reinforcement—are among the hundreds of new marine items introduced in the 1976 Marine Buyers Guide just published by Defender Industries, Inc.

This new 168-page guide, which provides complete instructions for amateur boat-builders, present new products of all major manufacturers in the marine field, plus imports and many items unique to Defender—a 35 year old leader in marine accesory items offered at bargain prices, and a vast assortment of book reference material.

The 1976 Marine Buyers Guide is available free from Defender Industries, Inc., 255 Main St. (P.O. Box 697), New Rochelle, New York 10801. Please remit 75 cents to cover postage and handling.

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA SYMPOSIUM

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will host a symposium on the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna on Saturday, January 17, 1976 from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

The symposium will be held in the Suffolk County Center auditorium located in the Executive-Legislative Building in the County Center on Veterans Memorial Highway and Old Willets Path, Hauppauge. Speakers will be:

Mr. Robert J. Ayers, Assistant Director for Marine Recreational Fisheries, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington D.C.

Mr. Fred Berry, Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Program Biologist, Southeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami, Florida.

Mr. John M. Mason, Jr. Research Associate, Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Topics to be presented include: Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Tagging Studies. Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Behavior and Migrations. Results of Bluefin Tuna Research Conducted in New York in 1975. The Tuna outlook for New York Waters in 1976. Recommendations adopted by ICCAT (International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas).

Proposed 1976 restrictions and regulations—quotas, seasons, size and bag limits. How they will affect the commercial and sport fishery. Topics will be illustrated with slide presentations, and audience discussion will be encouraged. For further info call Mr. Lawrence Kelly at (516) 751-8900.

FREE BOATING SAFETY COURSES TO BEGIN 1976 GIVEN BY THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

12 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Tuesday, January 6, 1976 at Cold Spring Harbor High School—call (516) HA1-1984. 11 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1976 at Greenlawn Elementary School. (516) 427-0244. 12 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Tuesday Jan. 8th 1976 at Huntington High School. (516) 421-4374. 3 Lesson Chart and Compass Course—Monday, Jan. 12, 1976 at Laruel Avenue School, Northport. 676-8888. 12 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Thurs. Jan. 15th at Wood Park Elementary School, Commack. 757-3063. 12 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Wilson Tech, Northport. 265-4630. 6 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Thursday, Feb. at Half Hollow Hills High School. MO7-8426. 7 Lesson Boating Skills and Seamanship—Monday, March 1st at Laruel Avenue School, Northport (516) 676-8888. 7 Lesson Safe Sail—Tuesday, April 6th at Laurel Avenue School, Northport. 676-8888. Information on any of these courses can also be obtained by calling 757-3063.

Chum Lines

COLD WATER FISHING

I feel I must comment on Scott Simons' views concerning the weatherman in his article "Cold Water Fishing" appearing in the December 4th issue of the L.I.F. Mr. Simons may know a great deal about fishing, but his lack of understanding of the weatherman's profession is apparent. For example, it is common knowledge that the intricasies involved in predicting the weather make this one of the most inexact sciences. Therefore, rather than chide and poke fun at the weatherman's abilities why not credit him with doing the best job possible in an area subject only to the whims of nature not of man.

The weatherman concerns himself with being as accurate as possible while knowing that because of the limitations of his knowledge he will never be entirely accurate. However, a weatherman is accurate many more times than he is inaccurate. Finally, if we don't have a certain amount of trust in the weatherman's abilities, who are we going to trust? *Gary Korbel, Westbury.*

I would like to thank Mr. Korbel for confirming to our readers that weather predicting is an "inexact science" and "subject to the whims of nature" and therefore the "weatherman will never be entirely accurate." So the angler should not rely on weather predictions for safety in cold weather months when an erroneous prediction can mean the difference between life and death, as stated in my article.

200 MILE LIMIT

After reading one of your exhortations to write our congressmen, regarding the extension of the 12 mile limit to 200 miles, I decided to write my congressmen.

This is the results of my letters:

Congressman James J. Delaney: expressed unqualified support for the 200 mile limit.

Senator James L. Buckley: expressed unqualified support for the 200 mile limit.

Senator Jacob K. Javits: did not express any support for the bill, instead he supported the Kissinger position of letting the U.N. conference on The Law of the Seas make any changes.

I would urge all readers of the Fisherman to write Senator Javits at the Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. asking him to change his vote. *John F. Fleming Jr., Jackson Heights.*

How To Keep From Going Crazy in the Winter

by Ron Onorato

As most Long Island fishing people know, there is but so much fishing you can do before old man winter knocks you out. Codfishing has extended the normal season into December, and with the mild winters we have been having lately, some folks don't quit until January. For the normal person, however, Christmas marks the end of things. That leaves us with January, February and March, three whole months with little if any fishing activity. Herewith is presented a guide of things to do to keep you from losing your marbles.

Everybody has written stuff on replacing hooks, making rods, cleaning reels, etc., so I will not dwell on this matter too long. Rather I will deal with actual, constructive, time consuming things that may ease the pain or drive you really nuts.

First start off by reading books and magazines on all types of fishing. Read about light tackle fishing in the flats of Florida and the Bahamas even though you know you will never go there. Read all about doormat fluke fishing in the middle of August as the snow continues to pile up on your front lawn, knowing that you have 8 months to go. Read about the big name sports writers who travel the world over, never having to suffer through a winter, and then tell you all about it. Read and re-read each and every copy of The Long Island Fisherman until you are so frustrated that you burn them all up. If you're real lucky, you may have some rich friends who spend the winter down south fishing away, and they send you nice letters and pictures of how good the weather is and the fantastic fishing they are having.

The next thing to do is to go to as many fishing clinics and lectures as possible. This is real good therapy for getting your mind together. Listen to all the experts tell you how to catch fish good. Pay particular attention to the movies that show blitzing bass eating everything in sight, giant tuna cavorting in the chum slick, and schools of giant bluefish ripping a batch of bunkers to shreds. Think about it all the way home as the temperature hovers around zero and the Northwest wind is blowing your car around. If you are fortunate, you may even have a few dreams about what you just saw and heard.

Sometimes a little excercise is needed to keep the mind and the body active. Usually we are blessed with a half way decent day sometimes during the winter, and it is on this day that you should pay a visit to your favorite beach. There is nothing more refreshing or invigorating than a brisk walk on the beach. Now is the time to brush up on your casting techniques. You might have brought your spinning rod along with a few sinkers.

As you heave that three ounce sinker into the surf on a cold February morning, just pretend that it is the middle of October and a huge striper is going to eat it right up. Of course don't get carried away. If you live far from the beach, don't be afraid of going to the local park and try some dry land casting. Just be sure to shrug off the snide wisecracks that some non-fishing person may heap upon you. They just don't understand.

On those dreary, dismal days, where foul weather precludes the possibilities of outdoor activity, you have to keep busy indoors. Start off by taking a complete inventory of what you have. Once that is done start on tackle maintenance and repair.

I like fooling around with reels. Most reels are really basically simple to take apart and put back together. If you have a lot of reels you can have lots of fun taking them apart and putting them back together. Sometimes you may even do the same reel three or four times over, even if once was enough.

Rods are even more fun than reels. You should replace worn guides and rewrap them. Not-so-worn guides are also replaced and rewrapped. Brand new rods are completely dismantled and reassembled. This takes up plenty of time.

The real fun comes when you have to make up rigs for the next year. Now you can use all the stuff you've heard and read about. Don't forget to make up plenty of big game rigs even though you're basically a flounder fisherman. Rush to the lumber yard and hardware store and buy plenty of wood and other components needed for making up those nice swimming plugs someone told you about.

Whatever stuff you can't make up yourself, go buy at the nearest tackle shop. Make sure that you buy everything in triplicates, even though one may cost $12.95.

Sooner or later you will just run out of things to do both indoor and outdoors. The only thing you can do then is wait it out, which is perhaps the hardest time of a fisherman's life. If things really get bad, I guess you can even go ling or whiting fishing somewhere.

And then after a seemingly endless eternity, spring will have arrived. You will have survived yet another winter (hopefully) without completely going insane. Just a little nuts maybe.

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Surf Side with John Fritz

WINTER STRIPES

PART ONE

Now that you have read all those articles about cleaning and storing your gear for the spring but have not gotten around to following their instructions because of some late bass fishing, hunting or Holiday preparations, hold on a few minutes. For myself the time span is too long between when the last remnants of bass leave our south shore in December until their return around April 15th. Especially when there are bass around for the taking, on light tackle and on artificials besides. Read on before you say, "Yea, I know those fungus laden, sore covered Rats from the Hot Water." Your retort is partially correct. Some fish are diseased, most are small fish and yes I'm talking about the LILCO discharge in Northport. But also it is bass action, most fish are clean and last year I personally saw an 18 and a 23 pound fish on the sand.

So if you can stand a little cold weather and want to keep your line wet, sometimes with ice, with a good chance of stripers on the other end find Route 25A on any road map. In the town of Northport by the Bali Hai, Waterside Ave. runs north from 25A: It is an extension of Vernon Valley Road, which is an extension of Larkfield Road. Anyway, follow it north until you see the dead end in front of you. Take the last right turn and park in the left side of the parking lot. No beach buggies are allowed here so lock your car and leave it here. After you dress, proceed west along the beach until you can't go any further without getting your feet wet. You are now there.

Before we get into the fishing part of this article lets go back to the parking lot and say a few words on what to bring with you. At least for the first time—after that you can use your own judgement.

First of all, it's cold, so dress warm. You can always take it off, but if it's back in the car forget it. It's a long walk back. For starters try thermal underwear and wool socks. The water gets cold when standing in it for any length of time and you won't be in the hot water all the time. Waders and top are required if you are going to wade out on the bar, which is advised. The top is also a good windbreaker. Take your belt with at least your stringer if you plan to bring the fish back to the car. Maybe a gaff for the possibility of that big fish.

If you have trouble with cold hands, like me, think about some kind of gloves. I've tried wool, with the casting finger cut off but once they get wet, forget it. Some guys use rubber gloves but with the light tackle I lose the feel of the line. I settled on one wool glove, for my left hand since I'm right-handed, which I can pull off and stuff in my top. This way I only have one hand to keep warm.

As most deer hunters know, a fast walk with heavy clothes on will work up a sweat and once you start cooling off all those heavy clothes won't prevent the chill from setting in. Take that walk slow and enjoy the scenery. You might even find a plug on the beach.

As far as tackle goes, any light spinning rod which will cast small tins, plugs and bucktails will suffice. I use a one-handed blank with a Crack 100 spooled with 6 or 8 pound test line. This is all a matter of choice of whatever you have available.

At one time or another most small lures will work here but the two most popular are the bucktails and small swimming plugs such as the Redfin, Rebel or Helcat. It's always nice to see a fish hit a popping plug and they do have their moments in this place as in all others. Tins come in handy when casting into any kind of wind. Most popular are the small Hopkins and Kastmasters.

I prefer the last half of the outgoing water for fishing the discharge but if you arrive there at high water start fishing bucktails or swimming plugs in the deep hole created by the waterfall. As the tide starts to recede, begin working the channel formed by the outflow. As you are fishing this part of the channel you most likely are facing west. On your right, or north side, is an L shaped bar which is now under water. This bar runs north about 50 feet or so, then dog-legs to the left or west. Last year there was a little hole formed by the current so you might have to feel your way around to the right. When you reach the part that runs parallel to the beach cast to the north and edge your way west plugging as you go. Many times fish are laying on the outside of this bar waiting for an easy meal to be washed to them over the bar. As the water drops more this bar will eventually become high and dry, and the water is then funneled back into the channel. Follow the tide out working the channel until you see another bar emerge on the opposite side. The tide will not be almost all the way out.

Now comes the tricky part because to reach this bar you will have to cross the outflow. The current is strong but by making sure you set your feet with each step it is possible to get across. This can be tricky, especially with three stacks going, so make your exploratory first trip in the daylight and bring a friend. Last year I found I could make it as long as this bar was showing out of water. Nothing on the beach remains the same year after year so I want to stress caution. There were a couple of instances last year where guys needed help getting back, either from a friend or from one of the few boats out at this time of year. Even if the fishing gets hot watch the turn of the tide and incoming water.

If you decide against crossing, work your way north as far as possible while casting into the fast water.

I've had fish here on all winds, but northwest is the preferred. It seems to push the cold water against the warm outflow concentrating the fish within reach of the beach fisherman. Anyone launching a tin boat at Crabmeadow will be able to fish further off the beach so winds won't make much difference to him. Since this is for the surfman we won't go into that.

Fishing after dark produces more fish than daylight, as with most bass fishing, but it is a lot colder without that sun to warm the day up a bit. I've had a fine day casting to breaking fish in mid-day under high clouds. Stormy days (like nights) will increase the percentages—it all depends on how much punishment you want to take.

Although I have never tried it here I've seen guys fishing bait. As you walk the beach from Crabmeadow the last half of the walk you will notice wooden jetties jutting out from the beach creating little bays. On several occasions I've seen people fishing here with worms. How well they do I don't know but I'm sure it's not just the fresh air that they are after. A few words about these jetties—at high water you will have to climb over them, whereas when the tide is partially out you can walk around the front.

Another method I've witnessed is fishing with cut bunker and drifting it out with the current. This hot water holds schools of bunker along with the bass, so this is a natural bait at this time.

I usually start fishing here in

(Continued on page 19.)

SOME 1975 L.I. WORLD RECORD FISH

9 LB. BLACKFISH
ON 6 LB. TEST LINE BY DEBORAH KUNO OF BAYVILLE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WHITE MARLIN
81 LBS. ON 6 LB. TEST LINE CAUGHT OFF MONTAUK BY STEVEN SLOAN.

WEAKFISH
12 LBS. 14 OZ. ON 20 LB. TEST LINE BY WALTER JOSEPH OF BABYLON.

35 LB. 1 OZ. POLLACK
33 LB. 14 OZ. CODFISH
BOTH TAKEN ON THE SAME DAY-ON THE SAME HOOK-ON THE SAME 30 LB. TEST LINE, WRECK FISHING SOUTH OF FIRE ISLAND INLET-BY PATTY ISHKANIAN.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE OFF-SHORE BLUE WATER FISHERMEN! THE U.S. ATLANTIC TUNA TOURNAMENT. AFTER A TWO YEAR LAPSE BECAUSE OF THE TUNA SHORTAGE, WILL RESUME AGAIN IN AUGUST 1976, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE YEAR'S TUNA QUOTA IS USED UP. SEVERAL NEW ENGLAND PORTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDING BEVERLY, MASS.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

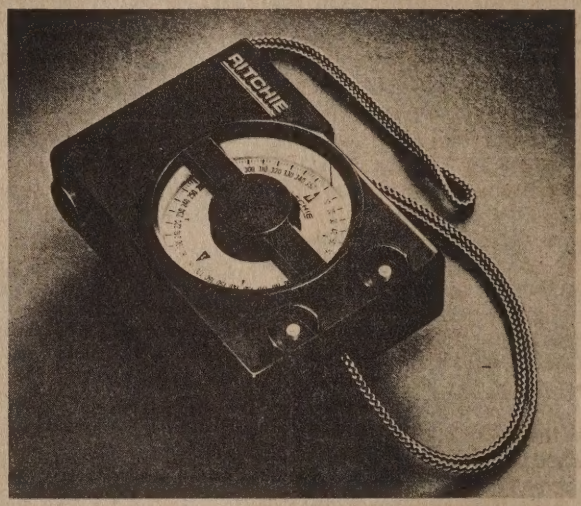
How To Relocate Fish

Okay, so you've done everything right—you are using a prime bait, located a bottom formation with a good population of fish and are in the process of mohawking 'em. If you are drifting over the fish you will want to make the same drift again, naturally. If you are anchored over the productive spot there isn't any immediate problem, but you may want to return to the location at a future date. Now what are you going to do? Relocating a fishing hotspot on the water may not sound too difficult, but it is if you don't know how to go about it.

Out of necessity, fishing is done in water where there are a few reference points. This is unfortunate, and many times I've dreamed of how much easier fishing would be if it were done on land—"the weakfish are in front of 123 Ocean Street" or "the flounder are in the mud around the fire hydrant" or "there's a school of blues hanging around the corner of Bunker Blvd. and Smith Street." But fishermen don't have the luxury of such stationary reference points to pinpoint a fishing location. To an angler in a boat, all water looks the same—wet and green.

So in order to be a successful fisherman you must know how to make multiple drifts (or passes when trolling) over a productive area. To accomplish this, the angler can provide his own stationary reference point by putting a marker buoy out. But marker buoys can move, sink or get stolen, so they are only effective on a day to day basis. What if you want to relocate the spot at a future date?

Navigational aids such as channel markers and buoys make excellent reference points for two reasons. First, they are more or less permanent and are rarely moved during mid-season, so they may be used for a reference point throughout the summer with a certain degree of confidence in their accuracy. Second, the very purpose of navigational aids is to alert boatmen to a condition that is potentially hazardous—the edge of a channel, a large shoal or rock, wreck, reef, or sand bar, etc. These same conditions are also often suitable for good fishing. By consulting a nautical chart to find out what type of obstruction the navigational aid is marking, the angler may discover a bottom formation with good potential that he can wet a line over. If luck is with you and the spot turns out to be a good one, the navigational aid will serve as a reference point that can be used to relocate the hot-spot on subsequent fishing trips.



A lobster pot is another stationary object that an angler may use as a reference point. They are usually placed in areas where there are rocky shoals or reefs, the same types of bottom formations that often attract many species of bottom fish. The only problem is that a string of pots are often put out by the lobstermen in numbers ranging from a half-dozen to 20 or more, and to compound matters, they will often be the same color combinations and shape so that the owner can identify them as his own. So if you do use a pot as a reference point and aren't careful, you may be distracted and become confused as to which of them marked the hot spot you were fishing. The best bet is to drop one of your own buoys over the side. Lobster pots also cannot be used with total confidence to relocate an area on subsequent trips because you never know if and when the owner has moved them.

There are only two visual methods of relocating hot fishing areas and bottom formations accurately on a long range basis—the use of shore ranges, or the use of compass bearings. Shore ranges are made with objects in fixed positions on land that will not be moved by the forces of nature. They may be used over a period of years by the angler with confidence to relocate a particularly productive area. The principal of a shore range is simple: two or more stationary objects on the shore will appear to be in different relative positions to each other when viewed from different positions on the water from a boat. To illustrate this principal, place two objects on your kitchen table—one object in the center of the table and the other at the far edge. Then bring your eyeballs down to the same level as the table so that you can just peek over the top of it and see the objects.

Now, keeping the eyes level with the table top, slowly move the head back and forth and notice how the far object appears to be moving. At first it will appear on one side of the object in the center of the table, then disappear behind it entirely for a moment, only to reappear on the opposite side of the center object on the table. Although both objects have remained stationary on the table, their relative positions to each other has been changing and giving the appearance of movement. The only actual movement, however, has been with your head.

Now it's a simple matter of substituting stationary objects on land for those on the table and you know how to take a shore range. Don't worry about the eyes and head—they will be on the boat with you if everything has been wired together correctly. When you find a good fishing spot, take a range on the two objects by noting their relative positions. When you want to relocate the area, simply maneuver the boat until their relative positions are the same as

(Continued on page 30.)

A Christmas Eve Fish Story

by Don Millus

"Nobody's got any money to go fishing on Christmas Eve. Their wives got it all for shopping. It's always a slow day." The speaker was an experienced West End party boat skipper. Mike Scarpatti of the "Ranger V". But Christmas Eve or not we were going codfishing. In the season that celebrates surprise, we should have been prepared.

While department store loudspeakers were resounding with dreams of a white Christmas, we were picking our way through an early morning fog to the Cholera Banks, pleased with both fairly calm seas and temperatures in the area of fifty degrees. Leave the snow and ice for the Christmas cards, and save the salt for the sidewalks rather than use it on the decks.

The twinkle in the eye of the first mate should have alerted us when we first met him early in the morning, but we were still too sleepy to notice his wink as he growled at us for putting our bag of tackle and foul-weather gear on a table in the ship's restaurant. It was only later that we got his name: Nicky Laus. Saint Nick couldn't have done a better job of entertaining us that day.

The first game we played was slice-the-clam, with Nicky's crew of elves grumbling all the way through the smelly sack of goodies. Others decided to play rig-the-Christmas tree, but they used hooks, beads, swivels and monofilament for their creations. Some would argue that the basic cod is not impressed by anything more than the sight of a juicy skimmer or a hunk of mackerel, but the anglers on board were in a festive mood.

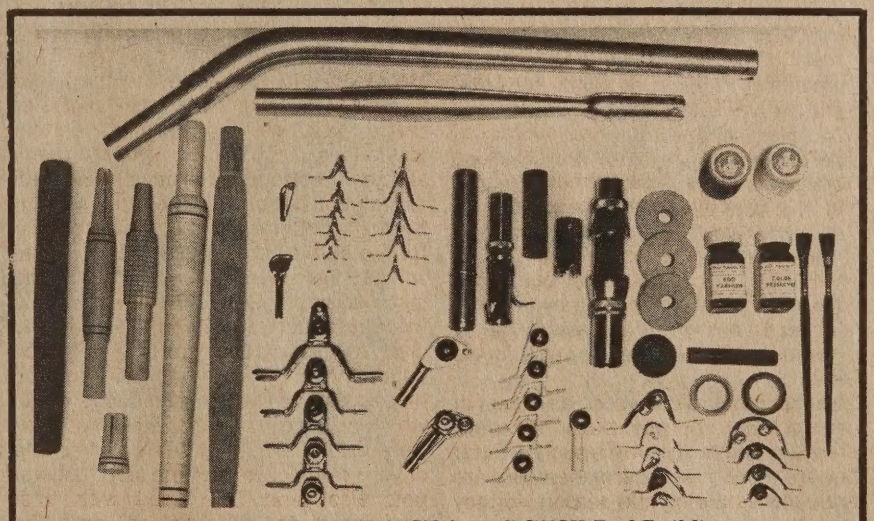
As Captain Mike Scarpatti Jr eased us over a likely piece of bottom, Nick and his crew were busy not with rigging reindeer, but with setting the anchor line. That done, some of his crew were allowed to play bat-the-clam to give the codfish an appetizer. Unfortunately, the Russians and others had celebrated Christmas early in December with their trawlers. Besides a lot of herring for the traditional European Yule celebrations they had also taken a lot of cod right out from under our American noses. Uncle Sam as Santa Claus! A fitting thought for Christmas Eve.

The few cod that were available finally joined in the fun and for a few hours the fish came in with some regularity. No Christmas salt-water turkeys here, however. Even Tiny Tim would have been able to reel in those five and six pounders while standing on one crutch. Still, it beat last-minute Christmas shopping.

In the spirit of the season, the cod engaged in some fun. Many seasoned fishermen say keep the cod rigs simple. Leave the clips, snaps, beads, and the rest and concentrate on the basics. But the old-timer who was hooking two fish for everyone else's one or none was using a tackle-shop special that seemed better designed to catch fishermen than fish. Apparently it kept his skimmer clam floating far enough away from his line to make his bait a little more attractive than the average offering we had sent down to the bottom.

As the day went on we had to move. Captain Mike wanted a piece of bottom marked with a bleach-bottle buoy and Nicky organized his crew. Al Arberg got the honor of tossing the bottle plus weight, no doubt because of his elfish grin. "Now." yelled the skipper. "Now." echoed Nicky. "Oomph", grunted Al as he heaved. What he said next is better left unprinted in this festive season, as he saw his brightly colored wool hat go flying over the side along with the marker. Passengers and crew all seemed to appreciate the show, to judge by their laughter as the hat drifted out of reach. Al pretended to be upset. Nicky's eyes twinkled. We sent our lines down again and were rewarded by a few more cod.

No one filled bag, but a good number of three to eight pound cod were taken, enough to provide the baccala for a lot of Yule festivities. As we headed back to New Jersey through the city's Christmas Eve traffic, with three cod on ice in the trunk, we didn't need music for our Christmas spirit. A day of fishing with Nicky Laus had put us in the mood to play St. Nicholas ourselves.



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CROSSING THE BAR *with Don Vetter*

Trailer Boating

Mobility is the watchword in trailer boating; you may fish Long Island Sound one day, Peconic Bay the next, and The New York Bight the third, not to mention the advantages of not having to pay for winter storage or for a mooring slip. Size is less a factor in a boat's trailerability than is the method of propulsion; outboards and outdrives are suitable craft to trailer while inboards (with the exception of tunnel and jet drives) are not. Even if you are fortunate enough to own a waterfront home complete with a private dock, the fact that your outboard or outdrive boat is easily trailered may be useful to you. If you were suddenly transferred from Long Island to California, the boat could go along with you. If you take a winter vacation to Florida, you can use your boat down there. If you live any distance from the water of course, a trailer is a practical necessity.

A satisfactory trailer is one that supports the hull adequately through most of its length and transports it smoothly enough so that the hull suffers no undo strain. Six out of ten boatmen own a trailer of which 75 percent are single axle. The trailer you employ must be adequate for the size of your boat, and the draw bar and ball on your car hitch must match the trailer weight.

There are three types of hitch available: the clamp-on bumper hitch as used with rental trailers which is unsuitable for all practical purposes, the frame or chassis hitch for boat and trailer combinations in the class I range (up to 2000 pounds gross weight) which make up the majority of applications, and the self-leveling or equalizing hitch for the heavier class II and III trailer/boat combinations. For good handling on the road, roughly ten percent of the total weight should fall on the trailer tongue; for example a 2000 pound trailer load should be distributed so that 200 pounds of this is on the hitch.

Some attention should be given here to the towing vehicle. Few boatmen will go out and purchase a vehicle specifically geared to trailering, but rather merely install a hitch on the family car. Notwithstanding, there are a number of factors that should be taken into consideration, particularly in the case of trailering some of the heavier rigs. Actually any hull and trailer whose combined weights do not exceed 2000 pounds (class I) can be towed by the ordinary car, including compacts without undo wear and with no modification other than the addition of a good frame hitch. When you get into the heavier class II and III applications, your car will probably need such items as heavy duty radiator and cooling system, a transmission oil cooler to prevent excessive heat generated by trailering from breaking down the automatic transmission fluid, and HD shocks. These and other items are included in the "trailer towing package" offered by most manufacturers when purchasing a new car; some may be installed on your present car. If you find yourself in the position of being ready to buy a new vehicle and want it to be suited to your trailering application, there are a few pointers worthy of note. If you frequently launch at poorly maintained ramps or from unimproved beach, a four-wheel drive vehicle is worth consideration. Front wheel

The trailer must be geared to the hull design for satisfactory performance. Note: Wide keel rollers and side-support bunkers.

drive cars work well at slippery ramps by keeping the drive wheels well away from the water. A hitch on the front as well as the rear of a conventional, rear wheel drive car can assist in launch and recovery in slippery spots.

When matching trailer to boat, it is important to remember that the heavier rigs must have trailer brakes, of which there are two basic types: the electric brakes, controlled separately from inside the car, and the more efficient hydraulic or "surge" brakes, which synchronize their action with the car's own brakes by means of a unit on the tongue which gauges the braking force of the car through the tendency of the trailer to surge against the hitch as the car's brakes are applied and applies the trailer brakes accordingly.

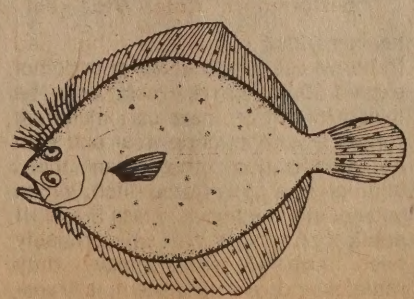
One axel or two? Double axel trailers provide a great deal of additional stability and far superior weight distribution; I would recommend them highly to owners of larger, heavier craft. The wheels on twin axle trailers are close enough together as to be of little hinderance in backing maneuvers, the mysteries of which esoteric subject we will get into a little later on. In fact the only disadvantage I can think of in regard to double axle trailers, is that you are charged for the additional axle on toll roads.

A number of hull manufacturers either have trailers built to their specifications or recommend a specific stock model as best suited to their hull. If you buy one of these, you can be reasonably assured of a good fit and smooth transport for your boat. When choosing a trailer, you have a choice of hull supports: either padded side-support bunkers or side rollers (the keel rollers are just about universal with either type). The bunker models provide a closer fit with some hull conformities while rollers throughout usually makes for smoother launching and recovery. Both leaf and coil springs are available depending on which manufacturer you choose, and while the coils tend to hold up better than do the leaf type, the choice is largely academic; both work well. One item to look for in trailer suspensions is the presence of hydraulic shock absorbers as they can add a great measure of smoothness to the ride your boat gets, and they are all but essential with the heavier rigs.

Two other features to consider are winch types and break-frames. The break frame is usually a feature on all but the smallest trailers and it expedites launching and recovery. When properly employed, the modern break frame trailer obviates the necessity of deep-dunking, though many boatmen still prefer the deep route and float their craft on and off the trailer. There is nothing intrinsically evil in this method, though if you employ it you would be well advised to have your bearings repacked regularly. Your reporter, however, likes to keep his feet dry and has always felt that if a boatman's launch and recovery operations necessitate wading around in the water he is doing something wrong. Merely back the trailer deep enough into the water to avoid the transom's touching bottom when the steep angle the break-frame provides is taken into consideration, pull the break pin and launch. You may control the boat's speed of appraoch to the water with the winch in a controlled launch or disconnect the winch line and attach a separate bow line for a free lunch; in either case a slight shove should be sufficient to get the boat moving down the rollers if the trailer is properly designed and the load is balanced well.

When recovering the boat at the end of the day, center it at the rollers, tilt the motor affix the winch line and crank away. The U shaped "boat guide" offered as an accessory by many trailer manufacturers is of assistance here, particularly if you are performing the operation single-handed. They also extend the life of the trailer lights as they are mounted on the arms of the U, and thereby prevent their being dunked. While the standard crank winch will serve well enough in many instances, the electric power winch which works off the car's battery is a great help with the heavier craft and when alone.

Backing the trailer is a big bugaboo with the novice trailer boatman, but there is no reason why this should be so if you remember that the trailer will turn in the opposite direction from the rear wheels of the car when in reverse and you may very well get yourself into a tight spot and be unable to back out. If you're a systematic sort of person, you can hitch up an empty trailer to your car and go off somewhere by yourself and practice.



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SECRET WRECK OF RECORDS

by Dick Mermon

How does it feel to hold an I.G.F.A. record? Well, I dare say it is an accomplishment with the feeling beyond explanation. On the other hand, ask the question, how would it feel to hold two records on the same day, same trip, with the same rod, reel, hook, and bait? A question like that should be directed to Patty Ishkanian of Dix Hills New York for her catch of pollack and cod.

One would picture a record codfish or pollack to be taken during the winter months. Only because of the amount of fishermen seeking the species and the accessibility. However, there are fishermen and fisherwomen which attempt to capture species of fish that are said to be out of season. Cod and pollack are never out of season in the waters off Long Island. They move in and out with the change of the water temperature. The deep waters off our shores are cooler near the bottom and is the location of these species.

In conjunction with cooler water temperature, a ship-wreck, ruin, or structure of some sort is the holding element. Hence, it is the location most codfish and pollack are found during the warm weather season. In the present state, record fish are to be found, undisturbed by man. Along the south shore of Long Island, there are about thirty-five known charted and uncharted wrecks. The uncharted structures are recogonized only but to a few. In such a place the two woman's record fish came from.

Patty and Bob Ishkanian, George Rytel, Charlie Monton, and Nick Trovato are members of the Babylon Tuna Club and were together on this secret wreck of records fishing jaunt. This piece of bottom structure was not a total hidden mystery to them at all, for George Rytel and Bob Ishkanian had visited it earlier in the year. George knew of the sunken structure years ago and had been there several times. At this time Bob ventured to the two hundred foot depth for an inspection with scuba gear. A small piece of the submerged structure revealed tremendous codfish, which is estimated to be over fifty or sixty pounds. The entire encrusted area was populated with cod of all sizes. Higher up were schools of pollack, encircling the mound. The wreck seemed to be turned upside down and about three hundred feet long. There were two smaller sections off to what looked like the bow. Throughout the entire location were schools and schools of cod, pollack and smaller baitfish.

On August 23, 1975, the five fishing people were aboard Bob's 37 foot Egg Harbor, "Bullet", heading out at 180 degrees from Fire Island Inlet. Some four hours later and about seventy five miles, south of the Texas Towers, the line recorder indicated a depth of two hundred thirty feet. The dual tracking Loran, pinpointed the location of the sunken boat, but it was still not exactly on the button. A small section was located and a buoy placed on the spot to mark a center location which to work the search pattern. The boat made a small circle around the marker buoy and the graph slowly revealed the mass hulk of the main structure. Immediately another buoy was placed on the spot. A crisscross pattern of the area painted the picture exactly how to fish the wreck. At each end of the structure, markers were placed to determine the exact location and length of the ruin.

Aboard the "Bullet" was a premade grappling anchor, designed to hang into the wreck or at least catch onto some forward part. This way, the baited lines would be fished directly onto the main section or at the end dropoff of the hulk.

With a slow drift of the boat, the graph

recorder indicated the anchor hung at a front section of the wreck and the lines would now be fished exactly over the encrusted hump of the ruin.

During the tedious four hour trip, two bushels of skimmer clams were shucked and 9/0 hooks tied to two hundred fifty pound test mono leaders. Sixteen ounce sinkers were tied onto thirty pound mono lines, which were on high speed 3/0 Penn reels. Hooks and sinkers were attached directly to the line, to prevent hang ups that were to come.

Within an hour of fishing, over twenty five cod came aboard and all over the twenty pound mark. Then, Patty hit into the fish that weighed in at 33 pounds, 14 ounces and a new IGFA woman's Thirty pound record.

Even as the boat swung back and forth on the anchor line, fish were taken. The recorder continuously marked fish as far as one hundred yards from the main hulk. Cod were everywhere the baits were placed. If the baited hook did not take a fish, the fish took the rig. Down went the baited skimmer as soon as it hit bottom. Three turns of the reel handle took it off the bottom and a cod was on. He either came up or the rig went into the wreck.

After some fifty hooks and as many sinkers later, it was decided to find what fish were off to the side of the sunken structure. The grappling hook anchor had to be cut loose and left to add to the ruins.

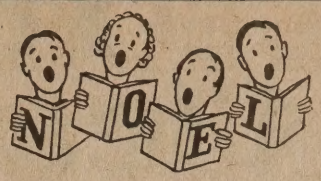
On the first drift, off the side of the main section, Patty hooked into what was to be second IGFA thirty pound record, a 35 pound, 1 ounce pollack. In one and a half hours of drift fishing, the quintet caught seventy five pollack, all averaging twenty five pounds. The ironic part was that they lost no hooks or sinkers during this time, for the baits were never let to the bottom. The schools of pollack were at the one hundred fifty foot level. Several times on the drifts, someone had two pollack on at the same time. If there were three hooks on the line, they could have hooked three at a time.

Returning to Fire Island inlet, the fish were officially weighed in at Duke's Tackle Shop in Lindenhurst. It was estimated that over three hundred gallons of gas were burned, some fifty hooks and seventy sinkers, a grappling hook anchor and two hundred feet of rope were lost to the wreck.

The two fish are now recognized by the International Game Fish Association as a woman's thirty pound record and are being mounted by Island Taxidermy, Babylon NY.

With the knowledge of old time wreck fishermen George Rytel, Patty's both fish shattered some long standing Babylon Tuna Club's records. So if you want to know how it feels to hold a world record, ask a lady named Patty Ishkanian.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The staff of The Long Island Fisherman would like to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and tight lines in the coming New Year!

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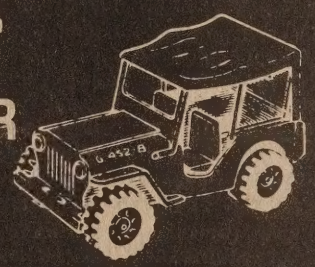

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The Care & Cleaning of Fish

by Matt Ahern

It seems a pity that because of the lack of fish-cleaning skills, many fish wind up in the garbage pail instead of on the table. Perhaps "pity" isn't the correct word: "crime" is more suitable; especially with today's high cost of food.

Just recently, a fisherman told me that never once in all his years of fishing has he ever cleaned a fish. This gentleman seemed rather proud of the fact, but I felt that he should have been ashamed to make such a statement. To be a well-rounded fisherman, I believe every angler should become acquainted with the skills necessary to clean and care for his catch.

Fish cleaning is easy. Yes, I know that while watching party boat mates and other skilled fishermen breeze through a mess of fish with machine-like precision, many anglers believe they could never master the technique. Nonsense. All that's needed is the willingness to learn. Once learned, these skills are never forgotten. The fisherman might even find he enjoys it.

It may seem odd to say, but I've noticed that those fishermen who enjoy the task, or at least accept it as part of the fishing game, catch more fish. Perhaps the knowledge of being able to follow the sport from beginning to end gives these fishermen the incentive to become better anglers. Perhaps it's psychological. I don't know what it is, but I do know it's so.

To begin with, it's extremely important that proper care of the fish be taken from the moment it is unhooked to the moment it's placed on the cleaning board. Don't, I beg of you, ignore this important fact. Freshly caught fish have an ambrosia-like flavor that is soon lost through improper care. The difference between these fish and those carelessly handled can only be likened to the difference between night and day.

It is quite possible to catch fish in early morning and by noontime have them become a smelly mess, unfit for human consumption. During the cooler months, this problem is minimal, but during summer's heat proper precautions to avoid this must be taken. The fisherman should keep in mind that freshly caught fish deteriorate rapidly, even in winter.

Properly fileted, these flounders will make many delicious meals.

It would be foolish to suggest cleaning each fish as it's caught. Therefore, when conditions warrant, as when skiff fishing, the angler should consider keeping his fish in an ice chest containing a good-sized piece of ice, or a chunk of well-insulated dry ice.

Place fish temporarily in a large plastic bag as you catch them and lay directly on the ice. The bag will keep the fish out of the melting ice water, which if not done soon turns the fish into a slimy mess. Also, throwing the fish directly on top of the ice will only cause the interior of the chest to become slime encrusted and bad-smelling. Not only that, you'll have the devil's own time removing this mess. A word to the wise is sufficient.

While we're on this all-important subject, never place fish in a container of water—especially in summer. The water will soon heat and you'll be guaranteed partially cooked fish. This is one of the main reasons many fish find their way to the garbage pail. If you must, keep them uncovered in the shade, but don't keep them in water.

There are situations where handling ice isn't convenient, such as when party boat fishing. Then, a clean burlap bag will be found to make a good substitute. It will keep the fish cool by evaporation when wet occasionally with sea water and kept out of the direct rays of the sun. It's also a good idea to begin cleaning some of the fish between moves. Be careful, though, you don't clean a possible pool-winner. It's happened.

For the skiff fisherman, I beleive the

best method of all is to construct a live-fish box. When this is hung overboard, fish will be found to be as frisky at the end of the day's fishing as when first caught. I made one many years ago and wouldn't be without it, especially when fluke fishing.

Such a box is easy to make. Mine is made of 1 x 12 pine shelving. It's dimensions are 18 x 12 x 10''. The bottom is made from a piece of ½'' hardware cloth, held in place by ½ x ¾'' pine strips. The hinged top is eight inches long and centered. The locking arrangement is a medium-sized brass hasp and you can use any kind of gadget you dream up to hold the lid closed. All fastenings should be copper, brass or aluminum.

You can make this easily-constructed box any convenient-to-handle size you wish, of course. It is well worth the effort. Paint it a bright color, not green or white. Should it accidentally float away, it is readily seen.

When I first made this box, there was no problem with the floating oil scum which seems to be so prevalent in many fishing places today. To overcome this, I wired down several eight ounce sinkers, evenly spaced about on the inside of the hardware cloth. this brought the water level close to the top of the box. I no longer worry about the possibility of my fish being contaminated with any oil that may be in the area I'm fishing.

Be sure to fasten the box securely to the skiff, preferably on the opposite side to which you are fishing. You don't want it in your way when netting a good-sized fish. It's also a good idea to always lift the box inboard every time you put a fish in, fluke especially have a cute trick of getting loose from the fisherman's grasp.

Most fishing stations have fish-cleaning tables and running water available for their patrons use, and if yours has one, take advantage of it. It's much better than picking scales and assorted offal from the kitchen table, chairs, etc. You know who will like the idea, too.

There are about as many ways to clean fish as there are to skin the proverbial cat. The following is the way I clean all round fish: round fish meaning any fish but fluke or flounder. Those I always filet.

Only two tools are needed to do a fast, efficient job: a good scaler, preferably with an offset handle to keep from being injured by too close contact with sharp-finned fish such as sea bass and porgies; plus a fairly stiff, sharp knife. You'll find a butcher's boning knife to be ideal. Keep it sharp by honing the edge occasionally.

Shun those knives that come equipped with a scaler on one edge. In my estimation, they are usually too short, too broad and too thick to do a good job. Use professional tools and do a professional job.

Scale all your fish before you do anything else. Get that job out of the way immediately. Much time is lost if each fish is individually scaled and then cleaned before going on to the next one.

Wash the fish to remove all loosened scales. This will prevent not only dulling the knife edge, but will also prevent a possible cut should the fish slip from your grasp on these loose scales.

Grasp the fish in one hand and push the knife point completely through the fish just aft of the pectoral fin. (The fin at the middle of each fish near the gill cover.) Then angle the knife toward the anal region and slice completely through. This cut is high enough to remove all intestines and most of the rib bones. Next, remove head.

You now have a cleaned and gutted fish, done with but two swift passes of the knife blade. If you can't gut and behead an average-sized fish in ten seconds with this method, you aren't trying.

You'll find that should you now desire to filet any of these round fish, it is easy to do. Start at the shoulder, following the backbone to the tail, making short, deft strokes. Lift off the side as you go along. Simple and easy—especially when you don't have the head and rib cage interfering with the knife blade.

Incidentally, never scale any fish you intend to skin. Not only do you skip this unnecessary step, but the scales act as a barrier, preventing the sharp knife edge from cutting through the scaleless, paper-thin skin.

To filet a good-sized flounder or fluke, lay the fish on a board, top side up for fluke, bottom side up for flounder. Make a diagonal cut from the shoulder toward you, skirting the aft portion of the gut cavity.

Next, make a long cut through the center of the fish to the tail, following the slightly indented line running the length of the backbone. Slice off one piece at a time, working toward the outside fin. This method will give you four slices from each fish. Takes a little practice, but you'll get it.

Some fishermen would rather have two large pieces instead of four small ones. To do so, make a diagonal cut as before, then a half inch in from the edge of the top fin, make a long, continous cut to the tail, following the contour of the fish. Start your fileting at the shoulder and work the side off.

To skin a filet, place it skin side down on a cutting board and make a careful slice about a half inch in from the tail end. Be sure you don't cut through the skin. Then with a firm grip on the skin, work it back and forth with a sawing motion, putting pressure on the knife as you slide it between the skin and meat. The filet will peel off without difficulty. This also takes a little practice, but is soon mastered.

Fishermen desiring more details, plus step-by step photos, are advised to order a copy of ''How To Filet A Flounder'', LIF Vol. 8, No. 40 1973. See page three of this issue for information on securing back copies.

Cleaning and taking care of your catch isn't difficult. If you want to be sure fish are in the best possible condition for your table, take the time necessary to learn the art. You won't be sorry.

Guaranteed!

Break the kids in early and they're sure to become better fishermen.

1974 Schaefer Contest Survey

Reprinted with permission from **SCHAEFER CONTEST BULLETIN, MR. BOB BLANKS, Director**

To All Participants In The Schaeffer Salt Water Fishing Contest 1974 Survey Report

THROUGH YOUR co-operation this past year we have been able to assemble a large quantity of sport-fishing data simultaneously over a 700 mile stretch of coast extending from Maine to Delaware. Each of you has helped make this possible by reporting your entire catch on the contest affidavit. Your information when combined with that from other anglers has enabled us to draw a composite picture of the seasonal distribution of some important fish species.

Striped Bass

While we are still in the process of analyzing the thousands and thousands of affadavits, we are sufficiently along with the striped bass data to be able to report on their movements and areas of concentration, especially for large-size individuals for which until now data have been lacking. In addition to the Schaefer Contest data, which deal mostly with striped bass weighing 15 pounds or more, we are using tagging data compiled by the American Littoral Society. Most of their tagged fish are rather small, weighing less than 4 pounds (21 inches ordinarily striped bass less than one half pound measuring 10 inches long do not travel far). By combining these two sets of data as well as commercial landings we are able to see more clearly the movements of striped bass ranging in size from one half pound to 50 and even 60 pounds.

We know from various biological studies and investigations conducted during the past 30 years or so that although striped bass are distributed along the east coast of North America from the St. Lawrence River in Canada to the St. Johns River in Florida, only those individuals living along the middle Atlantic Coast of the United States carry on extensive migrations. Although striped bass inhabiting various rivers and estuaries south of about Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, migrate seasonally within a river system, they evidently do not migrate along the coast. These may be composed of several groups, each contained within its river system or may collectively form a single group distinct from the striped bass of the Cape Hatteras. Striped bass of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and of the lower St. Lawrence River, as well as various other river systems in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia appear to be wholly isolated from each other. Thus, there are at least three broad groups of striped bass: southern riverine, middle Atlantic coastal migratory and northern riverine.

Migratory Group

The middle Atlantic fish frequent coastal and estuarine waters from about the latitude of Cape Hatteras to New York City the year round. During spring and summer many of them migrate northward as far as Maine and the southern part of Nova Scotia. Since anglers in the Northeast and middle Atlantic states almost exclusively catch members of this migrating group, our data pertain only to the habits and seasonal movements of these bass, and the following discussion refers only to them.

Winter

During winter the great majority of striped bass occur a short distance offshore from southern New Jersey to just south of Cape Hatteras, as well as in the various estuaries along the coast, especially Delaware Bay, and Chesapeake Bay. Water temperature seems to determine where they concentrate; thus during mild winters they occur somewhat farther north along the coast then in cold, windy waters. Also, during cold winters those fish occurring in estuaries seem to move into fresh water.

The lower Hudson River contains the northernmost spawning group of migratory striped bass along the United States east coast. There are occurrences of isolated groups of non-spawning bass overwintering along the coast in various places north of the Hudson River, but they are not always found at the same places year after year, except near electric generating plants. With tremendous increase in construction of these plants during the last decade adjacent to estuarine or marine waters, increasing numbers of striped bass have become attracted to their warm water discharge during the fall. Once the surrounding water temperature drops below about 44-42 degrees F the bass become trapped within the warm discharge area until spring. Unfortunately, as often happens, especially with nuclear generating units the plants for one reason or another intermittently stop generating for a week or so. As a result the warm water discharge ceases, thereby causing a very rapid lowering of the water temperature and often the death of the striped bass as well as other species of fish and aquatic organisms that have been attracted to the plants. This problem will most certainly be increased as more and more larger plants are coming into use.

Spring

The northward migration of striped bass begins during spring and continues into early summer. While the majority of the bass carry on this migration, many remain through the year in southern estuaries, such as in Albemarie Sound, Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay. This is especially true of 2-year old fish which ordinarily do not travel far. The migratory habits of fish that do travel are far from

uniform. Some of the bass overwintering in the ocean and bays may move up tributary systems to spawn. Once spawning is over they move out into the ocean and northward. Others overwintering in the ocean may begin migrating northward along the coast then move into rivers along the way to spawn, and then continue moving northward after spawning. Since the spawning season lasts from April to June and since the bass are entering various spawning rivers at various times along the coast, the movement northward of all the migratory fish may require a month or two to complete. Other striped bass, many of them mature, migrate northward along the coast and never stop to spawn.

Even with all of the complexities, the pattern of the migration is the same-northward along the coast in spring. As is true of other fish, the migrating fish school mostly by size and they seem to go in waves, which fishermen call runs. Furthermore, the small fish usually arrive two to four weeks before the large individuals. In moving northward some schools may remain in one area a day or two, only to be replaced by another school, as they continue their northward journey. As bass arrive at their destination they stop there to remain through the summer and early fall.

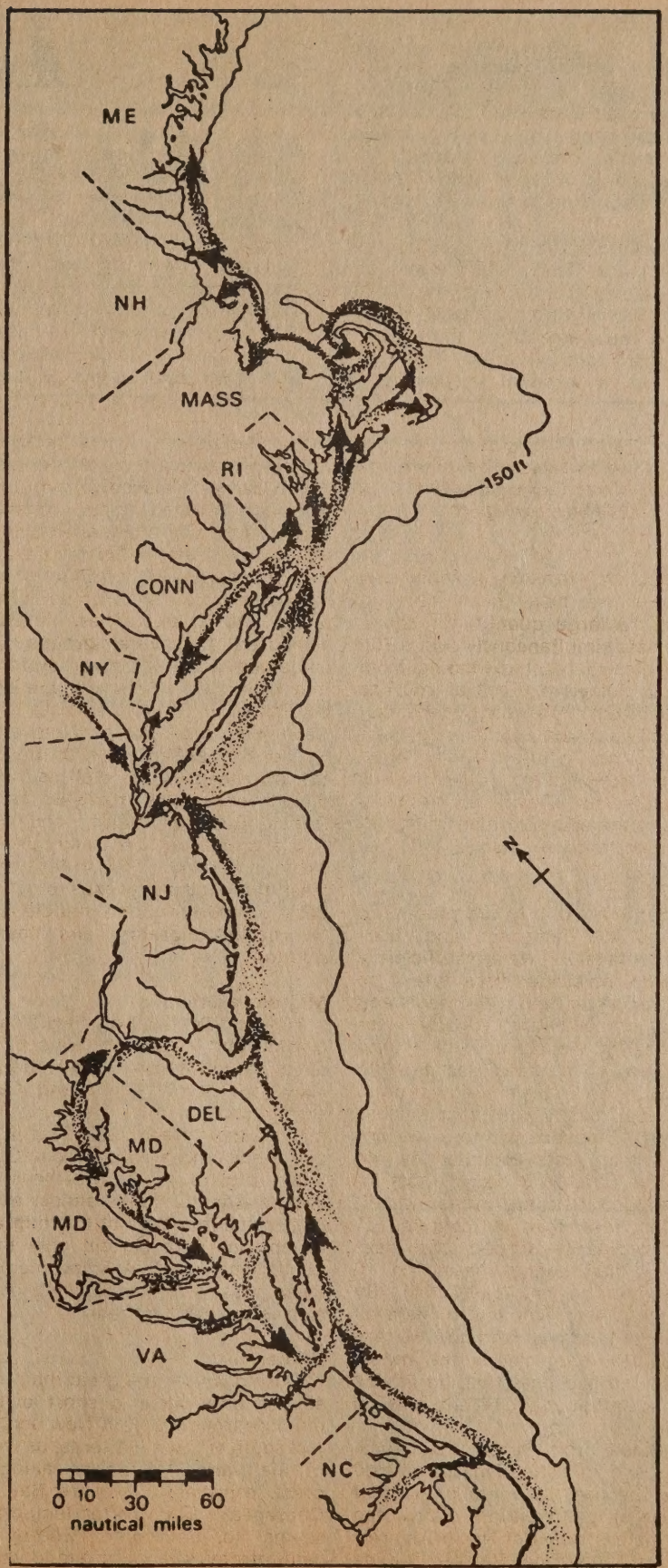
More Results of the Schaefer Contest

Judging from angler's reports in April, 1974, large bass (those 15 pounds or more) were distributed in two groups, one from Delaware Bay, along the New Jersey coast to eastern Long Island; the other along the south shore of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island. By May the number of striped bass increased forty fold. These fish were distributed from Chesapeake Bay to Cape Ann, Massachusetts, the greatest concentrations being along northern New Jersey, Rhode Island, and the south shore of Cape Cod.

Summer

By summer large striped bass were distributed over the entire coast from New Jersey to Nova Scotia. At the same time resident fish remained in Albemarie Sound, Chesapeake Bay and Delaware Bay.

During June catches of large bass ranged from New Jersey to about Cape Elizabeth, Maine, the largest concentrations of fish being off northern New Jersey and southwestern Long Island, Rhode Island, and the south shore of Cape Cod. By July large bass were caught from northern New Jersey to Maine. The largest concentrations were off northern New Jersey, Rhode Island,



March to May migratory routes of striped bass along the middle Atlantic and New England Coast.

Buzzards Bay, and the south shore of Cape Cod. While the same general pattern of distribution persisted during August, most of the catches of large bass were from Buzzards Bay and the south shore of the Cape. At the same time good catches were made north of Cape Cod in the area from Cape Ann to Cape Elizabeth.

Fall

During fall the southward migration took place. There was movement of bass along all of the coast the northern most fish moving progressively southward replacing others that departed for more southern areas. This started out as a gradual movement but increased in tempo as fall storms lowered water temperatures.

Catches of large bass were mostly north of Long Island during September most of them being off eastern Long Island, Buzzards Bay and in southern New England between Cape Ann and Cape Elizabeth. By October, the large fish moved southward out of northern New England and were concentrated between Cape Cod and southern New Jersey. The best catches were in Buzzards Bay, adding support to the premise that the Cape Cod Canal is an important pathway for striped bass. Good catches were made along the south shore of Cape Cod, eastern Long Island and southwestern Long Island. By November all the large bass left the area north of Cape Cod and were concentrated southward to Cape May. The best catches of large bass were then off northern New Jersey and eastern Long Island.

By early December no large bass were reported by anglers participating in the Schaefer Contest.

The Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest received the 1975 Metropolitan Rod and Gun Editors Association "Conservation Award" presented by T.V. personality Curt Gowdy, for our contribution to ecology over the past three years.

Left, August locations and relative numbers of catches of bass 15 pounds or over. Right, November locations and relative numbers.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

WINTER STRIPES
(Continued from page 6.]

December but that is only because the high surf dies. Anyway, there are fish here year around for those inclined but a Huntington Town pass is required in season. Since they are nice enough to let us use the lot to park during the off-season, take your trash with you.

In closing, watch out for those icicles on your guides that may fray the line.

This article was ready to go to press when I learned that the Crabmeadow Beach parking lot will be locked from 8 P.M. to 8 A.M. approximately. After five phone calls to the Huntington Town Hall all I learned was that the reason for the chains was because of vandalism. Sound familiar? I was told that they did not mean to deprive anyone the beach to fish and something will be worked out in a couple weeks.

My next question was, "How about parking on the road adjacent to the parking area which has No Parking signs every couple feet." The answer I received was that those signs were meant to be enforced only during the summer season, Memorial Day to Labor Day but I had better stop at the local Police station and check. A stop at the Second Precinct brought the reply that it was the Town who makes the ordinances, they only enforce them. The officer said, "There should be no problem but he could not give me an OK to park in front of a No Parking sign."

That is the situation as of this writing, so you'll have to use your own judgement about parking after dark. A couple hundred phone calls from all you Huntington residents to your Town Hall couldn't hurt. Any new developments learned by the "L.I.F." will be passed on to the readers.

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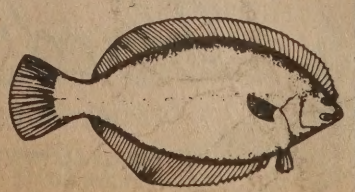

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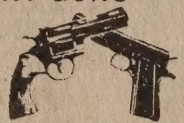

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman is holding a contest where our readers can win a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the 45 convenient locations listed below and pick up an L.I.F. litter box for the rear window of his car. Each week the license plate number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, just call *The Fisherman* by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received by the deadline, the cash prize will accumulate.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

426-WIA

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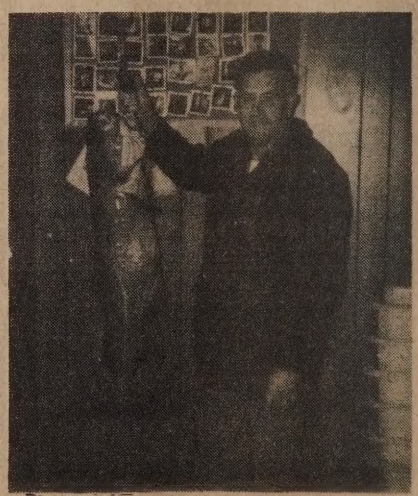
SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The **Peconic Queen II** loaded up on big codfish this past Saturday. Captain Lester Behan was on his way up from the Shipyard with the new **Peconic Queen III** at the time of this writing. Watch their ad and this column for dates of the maiden voyage.

Captain Paul Foresberg of the **Viking Star** told us that the codfishing has been fair at the Block Island grounds with 50 to 150 cod taken daily and 50 to 100 big blackfish taken. The cod ranged in size from 8 to 30 pounds and the blacks a very respectable 5 to 12.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marline III** told us that he sailed on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and fishing was very good. Friday was best with 10 to 15 cod per man and 3 to 5 fish per were taken on the other days. Blackfish 8 to 10 pounds, big Boston mackerel and a few pollack are mixed in with the cod. The codfish average 8 to 10 pounds and the pool fish is 30 to 40 pounds daily. Best areas are Block Island and occasionally at Cartwright.



Mr. Jack Knight, visiting from North Carolina, tried codfishing for the first time and cautht this 29 lb. 12 oz. cod on open bottom. Being mostly a fresh water fisherman, this is the biggest fish he has caught to date. Photo courtesy of Dukes Tackle Shop.

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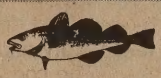
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CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that fishing was decent during the week with 40 to 80 cod taken each day, but it slowed up on the weekends with only 30 to 35 fish taken. The fishermen that stuck with it had good catches. The fish are now on the flat bottom all around the NB buoy and averaged 12 to 15 pounds. Biggest cod during the week was a 35 pounder. The doggies are in hot and cold.

Fishing has improved 100 percent in the last week, according to Captain Joseph of the **Captain Joseph Fleet**. Seventy to eighty cod are being taken per trip with quite a few big ones ranging from 30 to 40 pounds. Average cod is 15 to 20 pounds. Best area has been south of the inlet on the open bottom around the NB buoy. A few whiting and mackerel are also in the area. fishing has been very good when the weather is good.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the **Lady Ann** said that fishing is now very good and catches range from 2 to 12 fish per man with a lot of big fish in the catch. Monday's pool was taken by a 47 lb. cod, and on Wednesday 12 fish were boated between 30 and 43 pounds. The larger fish are east of the NB buoy, and every day fish over 30 pounds are taken.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

ISLAND PARK

Captain Bill of the **Gennie Mae** says he caught pretty well both Saturday and Sunday in 85 feet of water, though the seas were mountainous. Fish ran from 10 to 20 pounds and all fares had at least a couple of fish.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Fred of the **Amberjack IV** did fair on cod on Saturday from the decks of his charterboat **The Carrie D** even though the waves were mountainous in the afternoon. Last Saturday the **Amberjack** had 78 cod and Sunday about ⅓ that amount. On Monday, Fred says that at about 5:15 A.M. at the 12 mile line there were 18 foreign vessels sucking up fish. Isn't that just dandy, Mr. Kissinger?

Captain Wrege of **The Chief** informs us that he had very good whiting fishing on Saturday, 15 to 20 per man, in spite of the high winds and heave. Wednesday and Thursday whiting was very good also at Ambrose with fish to 1½ pounds.

Captain Nick of the **Blue Sea II** has been having very good whiting fishing N/NE of the tower along with some cod and macks. He says that the fishing is super when the weather is good, with whiting 1-1½ pounds. Wednesday he was bagging whiting up to 3 pounds along with a few ling. Saturday and Sunday were anchor days and they caught very well, fares getting anywhere from a ½ to a full burlap bag a piece.

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W. Scalankiewicz, B. Kananowicz and T. Sikora caught over 200 flounders on bloodworms and mussel chum in Moriches Bay and Hart's Cove. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

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Captain Tony of **Big Mohawk II** on Saturday had 15 anglers from the Sheepshead Bay High School out for cod and they ended up with 23 cod ranging from 8 to 16 pounds. Tied for top honors and the pool were Alfanszo White and Will Daskel both with 16 pound fish. A 29 pounder was bailed by one party not in the pool. Action was E/SE of the NC buoy about 12½ miles out. All the cod were good sized except for two fish. Very few dogfish came up. A few whiting and ling were mixed in.

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream** had 31 fares out on Sunday and they bagged 150 cod in spite of the heaving seas and the poor visibility due to the snow. On Saturday 23 fares had over 60 codfish with a 35 pounder taking the pool for Louie the plumber. Wednesday angler Mike Naval of the Steeplechase Rod and Gun Club bagged a 38 pound cod. All in all the codfishing is increasing day by day and is now classified as "good".

Captain Kessinger had another item to report besides the fishing. He was wild with anger and frustration at what he related to me about Sunday's fishing trip. While double-anchored 13 miles off the beach with his anchor light on and the anchor ball up in this poor visibility day, along came a Russian Trawler roughly 400 feet from the **Starstream**, and despite hand signals, blasts from the Starstream's horn, the anchor light, attempts at radio contact etc., this unwanted intruder from the east, this delegate of detante, picked up the Starstream's anchor and two hundred feet of brand new anchor cable in its

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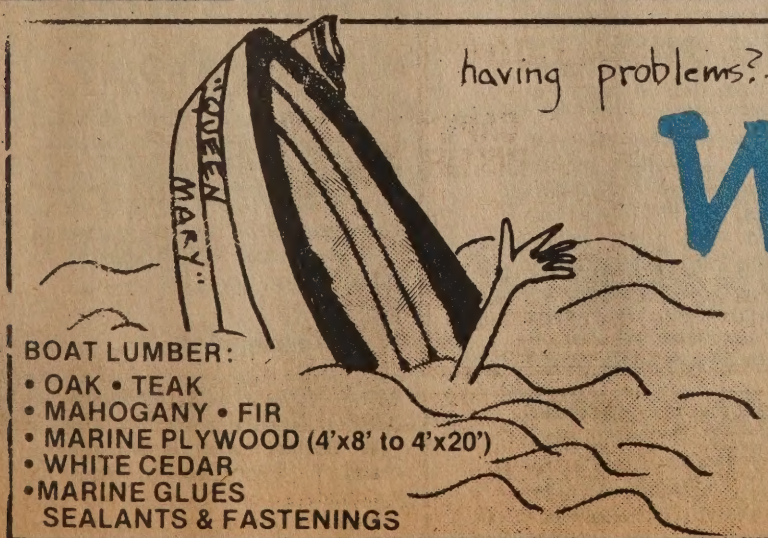

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Cordell Lure Notice

The Fisherman has received phone calls and letters by the hundreds from subscribers who have not yet received the Cordell lures offered in a recent subscription premium. These lures were to be shipped directly from Cordell factory in Arkansas.

Unfortunately, after repeated phone calls and letters by our staff to Cordell, with no apparent results, The Fisherman has proceeded with legal action against the Cordell Lure Co.

Should there continue to be a shipment problem, The Fisherman will purchase and ship, at our own expense, replacement lures.

We are greatful for patience and understanding of the subscribers involved. Future notices in The Fisherman will keep you informed of our progress.

trawl and cut it off clean. Richie called the Coast Guard and by the time a chopper arrived to review the situation, there were five trawlers in the immediate area, all foreign. By the time the Starstream had to leave this area, he had 24 of these foreign vessels surrounding him, dragging up the bottom. Not only did they louse up the fishing, but very definitely posed a clear and present danger to the passengers on the Starstream by relieving this vessel of one of its two 60 pound anchors in the rough sea conditions that prevailed Sunday. Richie was advised by the Coast Guard chopper that there was nothing the Coast Guard could do, and that he was "on his own", and "that he should use his own judgement." All this in a snow storm, with a heave on, only 13 miles from our coast line. What the hell is going on?! Do we need a sinking and a major loss of life before our elected and appointed governmental officials give us our 200 Mile Limit?!

Herb Bloominfield of Rockville Center had a 39 lb. cod and Mike Finerty a 32 lb. cod during the week.

The **Captain Al** reports 60 to 100 cod each day, for good solid codfishing. Lou Gershey on Saturday had a 26 and 30 lb. cod, while Frank Pachinger nailed a 38 pounder. Lou is from Elmurst and Frank from Huntington Station. Al has been fishing southeast of Cholera, one and one half hours from the dock.

Captain John of the **Aloma** had 36 hungry codfish to 15 pounds for 10 hungry fishermen on Saturday, working open bottom. John says the codfishing has shown a definite upswing.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

HUNTINGTON

The **Eveready fleet** will be sailing Saturdays only from here on in through the end of January. Watch their ad for sailing schedule.

NEW ROCHELLE

Captain Pete of the **Klondike VI** reports that he is getting a mixed bag of cod and whiting, though more whiting. Thursday he did very well on cod for 25 fares.

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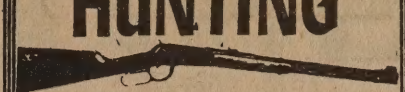
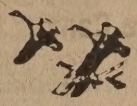


DUCK HUNTING



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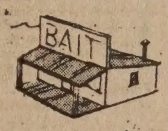

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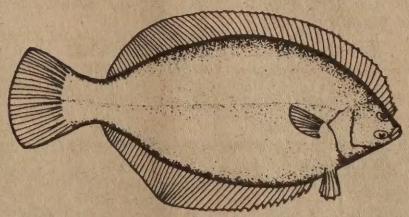

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

Mr. Joseph Maur of the Bronx called into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline to become this weeks LIF Litter Box Contest Winner. Mr. Maur hAS been sent a check for $10 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Captain Joseph Fleet out of Captree for his prize. For information on how you may participate in the contest see page 18.

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Aldo Chagnay, Ritchie Cosentino and Bill Gaffney pose with cod caught while fishing aboard the "Helen II" out of Moutauk.

RE-LOCATING FISH

(Continued from page 8.)

the range and you will be close to the original spot. To get right on top of it, it's always a good idea to take a double range. Using the same principal, take a second range on two objects on the shore as far away from those used for the first range as possible. Two ranges will not only give you the angle from the shore, but also the distance from the land. This is because a double range will always mark a location at the point where the ranges bisect one another—called triangulation.

Good objects to use for taking ranges are those structures that are tall and may be seen from a distance such as a radio tower, smokestack, water tower, tall building, telephone pole or large rocks and other obstructions right at the waters edge. The accuracy of a range will increase in proportion with the distance between the objects used, so it is important that they are at varied depths from you because when two objects are at different depths their relative positions will appear to change rapidly and be more pronounced. It's always good practice to draw a quick sketch of a range for an area that has proved productive so that it may be used to relocate the position easily at a later date.

Compass bearings are a quick, accurate and simple method of plotting a position that you may wish to relocate in the future. A bearing is simply a compass course between a boat and a fixed object on land. One bearing will give you the angle of the position from the object on shore, just as a single shore range will. Two bearings will give both the angle and the distance from shore at the point where the bearings triangulate, just as a double range will do. Three or more bearings will enable you to pinpoint the position even more accurately.

Taking compass bearings eliminates the necessity of drawing diagrams of ranges. In this case, few words can tell a lot more than pictures. The bearings "231° church steeple, 274° water tower, 326° lighthouse," entered into a diary or log book take the place of 3 diagrams showing 3 different shore ranges for triangulation.

For virtually centuries, bearings were taken with hand held lensatic compasses that were difficult to use in even moderate seas because the dial of the compass usually never stopped spinning long enough to take an accurate reading. But this problem has been licked by the Ritchie Navigation Instrument Corporation, which only recently came out with a Hand Bearing Compass with a dial lock for easy reading. Just hold the compass up to your eye and push a button down, which illuminates a red dot on the viewfinder. Aim the dot at the object on land that you wish to take a bearing off and release the button. This locks the dial in place so that you can read it easily without the erratic spinning. So simple it seems ridiculous. It also has an illuminated dial for night use that can come in handy if you do much night fishing for striped bass or bluefish.

Season's Greetings

TO ALL SURF NUTS
Especially to the gang at NOYAC MARINA & LON WANSERS
Also HAROLD & JOE
"THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL SEASON"
– RUSSELL (Flounder Belly) BROWN –

Season's Greetings

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TIDE TABLES

ON → / DAY		SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
12/25	THURSDAY	12:40	12:55	2:16	2:38	3:50	4:18	4:06	4:33
12/26	FRIDAY	1:40	1:57	3:18	3:44	4:56	5:34	5:06	5:36
12/27	SATURDAY	2:43	3:03	4:20	4:50	6:14	7:07	6:07	6:41
12/28	SUNDAY	3:47	4:10	5:19	5:53	7:33	8:18	7:09	7:42
12/29	MONDAY	4:46	5:12	6:14	6:49	8:37	9:19	8:06	8:42
12/30	TUESDAY	5:42	6:06	7:07	7:42	9:33	10:12	9:01	9:35
12/31	WEDNESDAY	6:30	6:56	7:57	8:31	10:25	11:01	9:54	10:24
	THURSDAY								

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times. If you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M. Minor	A.M. Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
12/25	10:20	**4:30**	10:40	**4:55**
12/26	11:10	**5:20**	11:30	**5:45**
12/27	11:50	**6:05**	—	**6:35**
12/28	12:15	**6:55**	12:50	**7:25**
12/29	1:05	**7:50**	1:40	**8:15**
12/30	2:00	**8:45**	2:30	**9:10**
12/31	2:55	**9:35**	3:25	**10:00**
1/1	3:45	**10:25**	4:15	**10:55**

PHASES OF THE MOON

12-2	12-10	12-18	12-25
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12-6	7:07	4:35
12-12	7:12	4:35
12-18	7:16	4:36
12-24	7:19	4:39

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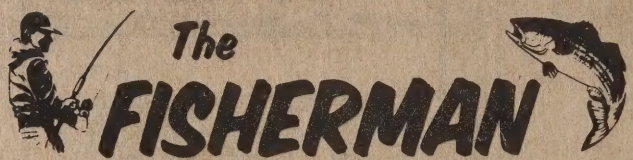

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